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December 17, 2021

Deanne Criswell, Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C Street, SW.
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Administrator Criswell,

I appreciate your agencies prompt responses to my office, and your support for Arizonans throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I am writing to encourage you to act swiftly to grant any pending Arizona Department of Health Services requests for emergency federal resources for hospitals throughout the state of Arizona.

According to the largest hospital network in Arizona “in-patient volumes are at their highest level since the start of the pandemic”. As you know, hospital capacity issues are likely to continue in the near term as we converge with flu season. Our overwhelmed hospitals once again do not have the staff to keep up with the pace of COVID-19 patients flooding the systems causing delays and potentially leading to rationing throughout the continuum of care.

Hospitals are reporting that upwards of 90 percent of COVID-19 patients in Arizona Intensive Care Units (ICUs) are unvaccinated, and while I disagree with Governor Ducey’s efforts to undermine vaccine requirements, I support all requests to provide immediate federal assistance to our hospitals to save lives. Additionally, I am requesting you provide my office with information regarding the timing recent requests from the state were submitted to FEMA.

I understand there are currently competing requests for resources, however Arizona has suffered a disproportionate number of deaths during the pandemic with one of the highest COVID-19 death rates in the country. Thank you for your consideration of this requests and for your ongoing support during this pandemic.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress